

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 929

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program of training to provide eligible veterans with skills relevant to the job market, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program of training to provide eligible veterans with skills relevant to the job market, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TRANSI-**
4 **TION (MOST) PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 36 of
6 title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after
7 section 3687 the following new section:

1 **“§ 3687A. Military occupational specialty transition**
2 **(MOST) program**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT; ELIGIBILITY.—(1) Subject to
4 the availability of appropriations for such purpose, the
5 Secretary shall carry out a program of training to provide
6 eligible veterans with skills relevant to the job market.

7 “(2) For purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible
8 veteran’ means any veteran—

9 “(A) whose military occupational specialty at
10 the time of discharge is determined by the Secretary
11 to have limited transferability to the civilian job
12 market;

13 “(B) who is not otherwise eligible for education
14 or training services under this title;

15 “(C) who has not acquired a marketable skill
16 since leaving military service;

17 “(D) who was discharged under conditions not
18 less than general under honorable conditions; and

19 “(E)(i) who has been unemployed for at least
20 90 days during the 180-day period preceding the
21 date of application for the program established
22 under this section; or

23 “(ii) the maximum hourly rate of pay of such
24 veteran during such 180-day period is not more than
25 150 percent of the Federal minimum wage.

1 “(b) MOST PROGRAM.—The program established
2 under this section shall provide for payments to employers
3 who provide for eligible veterans a program of apprentice-
4 ship or on-the-job training if—

5 “(1) such program is approved as provided in
6 paragraph (1) or (2) of section 3687(a) of this title;

7 “(2) the rate of pay for veterans participating
8 in the program is not less than the rate of pay for
9 nonveterans in similar jobs; and

10 “(3) the Secretary reasonably expects that—

11 “(A) the veteran will be qualified for em-
12 ployment in that field upon completion of train-
13 ing; and

14 “(B) the employer providing the program
15 will hire the veteran at the completion of train-
16 ing.

17 “(c) PAYMENTS TO EMPLOYERS.—(1) Subject to the
18 availability of appropriations for such purpose, the Sec-
19 retary shall enter into contracts with employers to provide
20 programs of apprenticeship or on-the-job training that
21 meet the requirements of this section. Each such contract
22 shall provide for the payment of the amounts described
23 in subsection (b) to employers whose programs meet such
24 requirements.

1 “(2) The amount paid under this section with respect
2 to any eligible veteran for any period shall be 50 percent
3 of the wages paid by the employer to such veteran for such
4 period. Wages shall be calculated on an hourly basis.

5 “(3)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B)—

6 “(i) the amount paid under this section with re-
7 spect to a veteran participating in the program es-
8 tablished under this section may not exceed \$20,000
9 in the aggregate and \$1,666.67 per month; and

10 “(ii) such payments may only be made during
11 the first 12 months of such veteran’s participation
12 in the program.

13 “(B) In the case of a veteran participating in the pro-
14 gram on a less than full-time basis, the Secretary may
15 extend the number of months of payments under subpara-
16 graph (A) and proportionally adjust the amount of such
17 payments, but the maximum amount paid with respect to
18 a veteran may not exceed the maximum amount of
19 \$20,000 and the maximum amount of such payments may
20 not exceed 24 months.

21 “(4) Payments under this section shall be made on
22 a quarterly basis.

23 “(5) Each employer providing a program of appren-
24 ticeship or on-the-job training pursuant to this section
25 shall submit to the Secretary on a quarterly basis a report

1 certifying the wages paid to eligible veterans under such
 2 program (which shall be certified by the veteran as being
 3 correct) and containing such other information as the Sec-
 4 retary may specify. Such report shall be submitted in the
 5 form and manner required by the Secretary.

6 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 7 is authorized to be appropriated \$60,000,000 for each of
 8 fiscal years 2009 through 2018 to carry out this section.

9 “(e) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall include a de-
 10 tailed description of activities carried out under this sec-
 11 tion in the annual report prepared by the Veterans Bene-
 12 fits Administration.

13 “(f) SEPARATE ACCOUNTING.—The Department
 14 shall have a separate line item in budget proposals of the
 15 Department for funds to be appropriated to carry out this
 16 section.”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 18 for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item
 19 relating to section 3687 the following new item:

“3687A. Military occupational specialty transition (MOST) program.”.

20 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Subsection
 21 (a)(1) of section 3034 of such title is amended by striking
 22 “and 3687” and inserting “3687, and 3687A”.

23 (2) Subsections (a)(1) and (c) of section 3241 of such
 24 title are each amended by striking “section 3687” and in-
 25 serting “sections 3687 and 3687A”.

1 (3) Subsection (d)(1) of section 3672 of such title is
2 amended by striking “and 3687” and inserting “3687,
3 and 3687A”.

4 (4) Paragraph (3) of section 4102A(b) of such title
5 is amended by striking “section 3687” and inserting “sec-
6 tion 3687 or 3687A”.

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